



PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

DIGITAL STORYTELLING/PHOTOVOICE – What if a person could tell a story that cuts across lines of education, language, age and class? Through the power of photography and old-fashioned storytelling, the Center has worked with youth and community groups on getting *their* voices heard. This qualitative process can cover housing problems, violent crime, unemployment, and other issues folks deal with on a daily basis. Currently, we are working with youth from West Louisville and East Downtown to use digital storytelling as a way of identifying barriers to living a healthy life.

HEALTH EQUITY DIALOGUES – Did you know that folks in some Louisville neighborhoods live on average 10 years less than people across town? Why is it that where we live, work, and play determines how healthy we are and how long we'll live? These are some of the questions raised when we discuss health equity with community groups, health department staff, and other city agencies. This process incorporates the PBS documentary *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* We also train facilitators from the community and supply them with a custom-made guide to assist them in leading these important dialogues.

COMMUNITY MINI-GRANTS – For the past three years, the Center has awarded mini-grants to community groups as a way to build capacity in addressing issues like housing, employment, food access, and poverty. This year, our mini-grants dovetail with the health equity dialogues. We will be working with five neighborhood-based organizations on hosting dialogues, assessing the needs in the neighborhood, mapping community assets, and developing an action plan.

FOOD JUSTICE – In West Louisville, there is **one supermarket** per **25,000 residents**, while the rest of the city has **one** per **12,500**. Such "food deserts" are areas overserved by fast-food and convenience stores, and underserved by supermarkets and fresh food. The Center has taken an active role in addressing this problem by working with partner organizations on a Food in Neighborhoods committee to support farmers markets, community gardens, local food entrepreneurs, and both policy and economic development strategies that help increase access to healthy food for all.



HEALTHY IN A HURRY CORNER STORES – How do you turn a food desert into an oasis? One way is by increasing the accessibility and availability of healthy food. In partnership with the YMCA, we have been working with neighborhood corner stores on selling fresh fruits and vegetables (some of which is **locally grown**). A group of students at Meyzeek Middle School named the initiative “Healthy in a Hurry.” The goal is to expand to other stores throughout the city because everyone deserves access to fresh, affordable produce.

WEST LOUISVILLE VISION – West Louisville Vision (WLV) began in December 2006 as a way to bring together individuals and organizations interested in and concerned about the West Louisville community. Since that time, WLV has held six public meetings and numerous, issue-based committee meetings. The goal of the group is to create long-term solutions to West Louisville’s many challenges based on relationships between residents and community leaders, non-profit organizations, public officials, the private sector, and faith-based leaders.

MEN’S HEALTH INITIATIVE – What barriers do men face when accessing health services? How do these barriers involve issues of race and class? The Men’s Health Initiative and the **A.M.E.N.** program will incorporate a health equity framework to promote systems change rather than changing individuals’ personal behavior. Neighborhood Places and community groups have been contacted to form focus groups so we can explore barriers men have in accessing preventative health services.

CLOSING THE GAP: SPEAKER’S SERIES – While the concept of health equity is relatively new to Louisville, there are many researchers, academics, and advocates across the world whose work revolves around the social determinants of health. The Center has hosted speakers like Camara Jones, Thomas LaVeist, Ricky L. Jones, and Makani Themba-Nixon to engage the community on topics like **racism, empowerment, and community organizing**. We can all learn a thing or two from these conversations.

...AND MANY MORE! – This list is only a sample of projects, programs and initiatives the Center for Health Equity works on. We work with volunteers, interns, students and site visitors so please feel free to contact us if you want to get involved!

PHONE: 502-574-6616

EMAIL: HEALTHEQUITY@LOUISVILLEKY.GOV

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